

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) An information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device configured to[[:]] receive an information packet through a ~~global computer wide area~~ network and a first local area network; and in response to at least the information packet and a state of the information processing system[[:]],

when the state of the information processing system is a first state, ~~selectively;~~

output a migration packet containing information representing a connection endpoint, such that the output migration packet bypasses the first local area network;

receive an acknowledgement packet that indicates that the migration packet was received; and

output the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses the first local area network; and

when the state of the information processing system is a second state, selectively execute a software application associated with the information packet.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the received information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first local area network is coupled to the ~~global computer wide area~~ network to the client.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first computing device is configured to:

~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system,~~ selectively output the information packet by outputting an ~~encapsulated information~~ encapsulation packet, the ~~encapsulated information~~ encapsulation packet including the information packet, a flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulation packet, and ~~a reference to a data structure of a~~ information representing a connection with the client.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the ~~reference is~~ information representing the connection with the client and the flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulation packet are included within a single header of the ~~encapsulated information~~ encapsulation packet.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the first computing device is configured to:

~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system,~~ selectively output the information packet to a second computing device for performing an operation in response to the information packet.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the information packet originates from a client, wherein the first local area network is coupled to the ~~global computer~~ wide area network to the client, wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client through the first local area network and the ~~global computer~~ wide area network, and wherein the first computing device is configured to:

~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system,~~ selectively output the information packet to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the operation is part of a software application executed by the second computing device.

19. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the software application executed by the second computing device is a socket application.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the first computing device is configured to receive the information packet from the first local area network in response to the addressing.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the first computing device is configured to receive at least a portion of the state of the information processing system from the second computing device and a second local area network.

22. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2 switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled to a router device to the ~~global-computer~~ wide area network.

24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3 switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the ~~global-computer~~ wide area network.

25-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method performed by a first computing device of an information processing system, the method comprising:

receiving an information packet from a first local area network coupled to a ~~global~~
~~computer wide area~~ network; and

in response to at least the information packet and a state of the information processing system,

when the state of the information processing system is a first state, ~~selectively~~:

outputting a migration packet containing information representing a connection with a client, such that the output migration packet bypasses the first local area network;

receiving an acknowledgement packet that indicates that the migration packet was received; and

outputting the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses the first local area network; and

when the state of the information processing system is a second state, ~~selectively~~ executing a software application associated with the information packet.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the first local area network is coupled to the ~~global~~
~~computer wide area~~ network to the client.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the information packet originates from a client, and wherein the method comprises:

~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system, selectively~~ outputting the information packet by outputting an ~~encapsulated information encapsulation~~ packet, the ~~encapsulated information~~ encapsulation packet including the

information packet, a flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulation packet, and ~~a reference to a data structure of a~~ information representing a connection with the client.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the ~~reference is~~ information representing the connection with the client and the flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulation packet are included within a single header of the ~~encapsulated information~~ encapsulation packet.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the method comprises:
~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system,~~ selectively outputting the information packet to a second computing device for performing an operation in response to the information packet.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40 wherein the information packet originates from a client, wherein the first local area network is coupled to the ~~global information~~ wide area network to the client, wherein the operation includes outputting a response packet to the client and the first local area network and the ~~global computer~~ wide area network, and wherein the method comprises:

~~in response to at least the information packet and the state of the information processing system,~~ selectively outputting the information packet to the second computing device for outputting the response packet to the client, such that the output response packet bypasses the first computing device.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the operation is part of a software application executed by the second computing device.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42 wherein the software application executed by the second computing device is a socket application.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the information packet is addressed by the client to the first computing device, and wherein the method comprises:

receiving the information packet from the first local area network in response to the addressing.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the method comprises:

receiving at least a portion of the state of the information processing system from the second computing device and a second local area network.

46. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a hub.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 2 switch, and wherein the Layer 2 switch is coupled to a router to the ~~global computer~~ wide area network.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the first local area network includes a Layer 3 switch, and wherein the Layer 3 switch is coupled to the ~~global-computer~~ wide area network.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the first computing device is configured to output the information packet to a second local area network to a second computing device.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein the first computing device is configured to receive at least a portion of the state of the information processing system from the second computing device and a third local area network.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the state of the information processing system is based at least in part on a state of a second computing device.

52. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 wherein selectively outputting the information packet comprises[[:]] outputting the information packet to a second local area network to a second computing device.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the method comprises: receiving at least a portion of the state of the information processing system from the second computing device and a third local area network.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the state of the information processing system is based at least in part on a state of a second computing device.

55. (Currently amended) A server farm, comprising:
a first computing device configured to[[:]] receive an information packet through a ~~global computer~~ wide area network and a first local area network; and in response to at least the information packet and a state of the server farm,

when the state is a first state, ~~selectively;~~

output a migration packet containing information representing a connection to a client, such that the output migration packet bypasses the first local area network;

receive an acknowledgement packet that indicates that the migration packet was received; and

output the information packet, such that the output information packet bypasses the first local area network; and

when the state is a second state, ~~selectively~~ execute a software application associated with the information packet.

56. (Previously presented) The server farm of claim 55 wherein the state of the server farm is based at least in part on a state of the first computing device.

57. (Previously presented) The server farm of claim 56 wherein the state of the server farm is based at least in part on a state of a second computing device.

58. (Previously presented) The server farm of claim 55 wherein the software application is a socket application.

59. (Previously presented) The server farm of claim 55 wherein the first computing device comprises a network interface card.

60. (Currently amended) The server farm of claim 55 wherein the first computing device is configured to ~~selectively~~ output the information packet by outputting an ~~encapsulated information encapsulation~~ packet, the ~~encapsulated information encapsulation~~ packet including the information packet, a flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulation packet, and a reference to a connection data structure associated with information representing a connection with a client.

61. (Currently amended) The server farm of claim 55 wherein the first local area network comprises a Layer 3 switch coupled to the ~~global computer wide area~~ network.

62. (Currently amended) A computer-readable memory medium storing instructions that, when executed, cause a first computing device of an information processing system to respond to an information packet received through a first local area network and a ~~global computer wide area~~ network by:

when the information processing system is in a first state, ~~selectively~~ executing a software application associated with the information packet; and

when the information processing system is in a second state, ~~selectively~~;

transmitting a packet containing a reference to a connection endpoint;
receiving an acknowledgement packet that indicates that the packet containing the
reference to the connection endpoint was received; and
forwarding the information packet such that the forwarded information packet
bypasses the first local area network.

63. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 62 wherein the information packet originates from a client coupled to the ~~global-computer wide area~~ network.

64. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 63 wherein the instructions further cause the first computing device to ~~selectively~~ forward the information packet by encapsulating the information packet with a header that includes ~~[[a]] the~~ reference to a connection data structure associated with the client the connection endpoint and a flag indicating that the packet is an encapsulated packet.

65. (Previously presented) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 62 wherein the software application is a socket application.

66. (Currently amended) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 63 wherein the instructions further cause the first computing device to ~~selectively~~ forward the information packet by forwarding the information packet to a second computing device.

67. (Previously presented) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 66 wherein the state of the information processing system is based at least in part on a state of the second computing device.

68. (Previously presented) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 62 wherein the instructions further cause the first computing device to receive state information from a second local area network.